

Message Text

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60

ACTION EA-09

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-02 INR-07 L-03

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FM AMCONSUL HONG KONG

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 2075

INFO CINCPAC

AMEMBASSY SINGAPORE

AMEMBASSY TAIPEI

AMEMBASSY TOKYO

USLO PEKING

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CINCPAC FOR POLAD

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PFOR CH

SUBJECT; PRC TREATMENT OF FOREIGN CONDOLENCES ON MAO'S PASSING

1. SUMMARY: PRC MEDIA TREATMENT OF FOREIGN CONDOLENCES INDICATED THAT NORTH KOREA HAS MAINTAINED ITS TOP SPOT AMONG PEKING'S FRIENDS, ROMANIA HAS MOVED UP TO NO. 3, AND VIETNAM HAS DROPPED FROM THE ELITE INNER CIRCLE. REJECTION OF PARTY CONDOLENCES FROM THE SOVIETS AND THEIR EASTERN BLOC ALLIES HAS HIGHLIGHTED THE FACT THAT THE CCP HAS RELATIONS WITH ONLY SIX OTHER RULING COMMUNIST PARTIES. IN AN UNUSUAL TRIBUTE TO THE CHAIRMAN, SIXTEEN COUNTRIES HAVING DIPLOMATIC RELATIONS WITH TAIWAN JOINED THEIR COLLEAGUES AT THE UN IN EXPRESSING CONDOLENCES. END SUMMARY.

2. PRC MEDIA TREATMENT OF FOREIGN CONDOLENCES FOLLOWING THE DEATH OF CHAIRMAN MAO HAS APPEARED TO DOWNGRADE VIETNAM AND MAINTAIN THE HIGHEST PROMINENCE FOR NORTH KOREA. IN THE LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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THREE PREVIOUS MAJOR FUNERAL CEREMONIES HELD OVER THE PAST

YEAR, THE VIETNAMESE PLACED NO LOWER THAN FOURTH IN THE LIST OF COUNTRIES SENDING CONDOLENCES. FOR CHAIRMAN MAO, VIETNAMESE CONDOLENCES WERE NOT EVEN RECORDED ON THE FIRST DAY OF SUCH LISTINGS, BUT WERE NOTED ON THE SECOND DAY FOLLOWING THOSE OF THE CAMBODIANS. FOR THE KANG SHENG AND CHOU EN-LAI FUNERALS, THE ALBANIANS TOPPED THE LIST, WITH THE NORTH KOREANS FOLLOWING. THIS ORDER HAS BEEN REVERSED SINCE CHU TEH'S PASSING IN JULY. ROMANIA HAS ALSO COME UP AS OF MAO'S FUNERAL TO OCCUPY THE NO. 3 SPOT IN PEKING'S GRACES.

3. CONTINUING THEIR DISTINCTION BETWEEN PARTY TO PARTY AND STATE TO STATE RELATIONS, THE PRC REJECTED PARTY CONDOLENCES FROM THE CPSU, THEIR EASTERN BLOC ALLIES, MONGOLIA AND THE WESTERN EUROPEAN COMMUNIST PARTIES AFFILIATED WITH THE SOVIET UNION. THE MOVE HIGHLIGHTED THE FACT THAT THERE ARE ONLY SIX RULING COMMUNIST PARTIES WITH WHICH THE PRC HAS RELATIONS: NORTH KOREA, ALBANIA, ROMANIA, VIETNAM, CAMBODIA AND LAOS. THE PRC DID PUBLISH STATE CONDOLENCES FROM THE "OFFENDING" COMMUNIST COUNTRIES, AND ALSO PUBLISHED BOTH STATE AND PARTY GREETINGS FROM EVERY SOUTHEAST ASIAN NATION, INCLUDING THAT OF THE NORTH KALIMANTAN COMMUNIST PARTY. THE PRESIDENT'S CONDOLENCE MESSAGE TO CHINESE PREMIER HUA KUO-FENG WAS CARRIED IN BOTH NCNA AND PEOPLE'S DAILY, AND NCNA INCLUDED THE SECRETARY IN A LIST OF FOREIGN LEADERS PRESENTING WREATHS.

4. AS AN EXAMPLE OF THE UNUSUAL TRIBUTE GIVEN TO THE CHAIRMAN, REPRESENTATIVES FROM MORE THAN 120 COUNTRIES EXPRESSED THEIR CONDOLENCES AT THE UN, INCLUDING SIXTEEN--APART FROM THE US--WHO HAVE DIPLOMATIC RELATIONS WITH TAIWAN. IN ADDITION, GOVERNMENT LEADERS FROM FOUR SUCH COUNTRIES (LIBERIA, JORDAN, BOLIVIA AND BARBADOS) ALSO SEND CONDOLENCE MESSAGES TO PEKING. DESPITE THE MESSAGE AND WREATH FROM THE INDONESIAN COMMUNIST PARTY, PRESIDENT SUHARTO ALSO SENT A CONDOLENCE MESSAGE FOR THE CHAIRMAN. HE HAD BEEN THE ONLY ASEAN LEADER NOT TO HAVE DONE SO FOR CHOU EN-LAI'S DEATH. THE ONLY MAJOR "DOWNPLAY" IN CONDOLENCES HAS BEEN FROM CUBA. FIDEL CASTRO SENT THE CONDOLENCES IN JANUARY FOLLOWING CHOU EN-LAI'S DEATH, BUT RELATIONS BETWEEN THE TWO COUNTRIES HAVE WORSENEDED SINCE THEN OVER ANGOLA. THIS TIME THERE HAS BEEN NO CONDOLENCE MESSAGE PUBLISHED FROM THE CUBANS, ALTHOUGH CUBAN OFFICIALS LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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DID CALL AT THE CHINESE EMBASSY IN HAVANA.
CROSS

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